

SPRING

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# The Dispatch

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## \*\*\*\*\*A MESSAGE FROM OUR US ATTORNEY\*\*\*\*\*

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Dispatch*, the official newsletter of the Law Enforcement Coordinating Council. I have been privileged to work closely with all of the member agencies of the LECC, and I believe that frequent communication is crucial to an effective and productive working relationship between my office and the law enforcement agencies, and among the agencies themselves.

The number one priority of the Department of Justice is the prevention and disruption of terrorist activity and the protection of the United States. Since I started as U.S. Attorney in 2005, I have tried to strengthen and enhance our national security program. I believe that our office has one of

the most proactive, innovative, and successful counter-terrorism programs in the entire country.

I am also particularly proud of our efforts in building robust programs to prosecute violent firearms offenders, in our Project Safe Neighborhoods cases, as well as in fighting child pornography online and Internet child exploitation, through our Project Safe Childhood program. Each of these programs have initiated scores of successful prosecutions that have removed dangerous and violent predators from our community.

But our work is not finished once the criminal is behind bars. We have also worked hard to reach out to the community and create programs that will discourage



recidivism, and help offenders who have been released from prison to avoid re-offending. Our "Weed and Seed" program, dedicated to these goals, has been recognized nationally as a model of community action and outreach. I look forward to continuing these efforts with you.

## Victim /Witness news

April 13 - 19, 2008 marked the 28<sup>th</sup> annual observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy held a press conference to recognize the hard work and dedication of individuals within and outside of the United States Attorney's Office in helping the victims of crime as well as highlighting the impact that crime has on its victims.

Amy S. Allen was presented with a Meritorious Service Award for her work as a forensic interviewer. Amy Allen, is employed at Care House in

Oakland County. Having conducted thousands of forensic interviews of exploited children as part of a multi-disciplinary team, Allen possesses unique experience. She has provided invaluable assistance to the United States Attorney's Office and the agents investigating child exploitation cases at Department of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Allen has interviewed children victimized by those who create child pornography and sexually assault them.

USA Murphy also took a moment to recognize the achievements of The United States Attorney's Office's own Victim Witness Program. The office is committed to the protection of the rights of crime victims and witnesses and ensures that they are treated with dignity and respect. This has been accomplished under the direction of the Victim Witness Coordinator, Sandy Palazzolo.

## Farewell After 31 Years



Alan Gershel, Chief of the Criminal Division, will be retiring from this office in June of 2008. His departure will be historic because he has served in this position for 19 years, longer than any other person in the U.S. Department of Justice. As Criminal Chief, he has numerous responsibilities in the office. He advises AUSAs on complex investigative and trial issues, handles personnel issues, acts as a liaison between the office and the judges, implements new policies in the Criminal Division, approves extraordinary plea agreements, conducts Gigilo checks, and supervises all criminal supervisors, including those in Bay City and Flint.

Alan has been a member of this office since 1980, except for a brief stint in private practice. He also served on a one year detail as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice under Janet Reno. During his tenure in the office, he has twice been appointed Acting U.S. Attorney, once for a Democratic and once for a Republican administration. This reflects the great deal of respect that Alan has achieved while serving in this office. Federal investigative agencies believe he always demon-

strates fairness and integrity. His door is always open to them whether they agree or disagree with a decision by the office.

Alan may be an administrator, but he has never completely given up his love of the courtroom. As Criminal Chief, he has tried many high profile cases, including the successful prosecution of the Detroit Chief of Police, William Hart. He believes you must lead by example.

Alan leaves this office to begin a new career as a professor at Cooley Law School.

His departure from the U. S. Attorney's Office will be a sad occasion, but U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy has appointed the capable Eric Straus to take his place, with the new title of Chief of the Criminal National Security Division.







## WASHTENAW LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL INDICTED

Two Washtenaw County Sheriff's deputies and a sergeant were indicted in two separate indictments, by a federal grand jury in Detroit for violating the civil rights of two Ypsilanti Township men.

The indictments, which were returned on March 12, 2008 charged Joseph Eberle, age 35, Eric Kelly, age 37, and Shawn Hoy, age 37.

The charges are based on the alleged use of unreasonable force by the officers on June 1, 2006, in Ypsilanti Township after a traffic stop. Deputy Eberle is charged with intention-

ally using unreasonable force on Clifton Lee Jr., who died as a result. Deputy Kelly and Sergeant Hoy are charged with intentionally using unreasonable force on Bruce Lee, who was injured. It is also alleged in the indictment that Sgt. Hoy intentionally failed to stop and prevent the use of unreasonable force by Deputy Kelly. The two victims were brothers.

USA Murphy said, "The police power is designed to protect the people. Today's charges arise from a police-citizen encounter in which it is alleged that this power was abused, with tragic

consequences. Such alleged abuses run contrary to our civil rights laws, and where the evidence is sufficient, they will be vigorously prosecuted."

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Mr. Murphy commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their investiga-

## ROGER SWEET PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD EXPLOITATION CHARGES

On April 7, 2008, former Brownstown Township resident Roger Junior Sweet, 58, pleaded guilty to four counts of Sexual Exploitation of Children, and one count of Attempted Receipt of Child Pornography,

As part of his plea, Sweet admitted to manufacturing child pornography on four separate occasions between July 2004 and June 2005. Sweet admitted that he took pictures of a girl in sexual

poses and engaging in sexual acts using materials that had traveled in interstate commerce. Additionally, Sweet admitted that in October 2005 he attempted to receive child pornography from an internet message board.

Manufacturing child pornography is really two awful crimes: sexual abuse of a child and preserving that abusive act in a permanent photographic record. A sentencing hearing for August 4, 2008, The statu-

tory maximum for the four counts of Sexual Exploitation of Children is 30 years in prison, with a minimum mandatory of 15 years. For the Receipt of Child Pornography charge, Sweet faces five to twenty years in prison.

As part of the plea agreement, the United States Attorney's Office and Sweet agreed to the guideline range of 210-262 months in custody.

The case was investigated by the FBI and the Brownstown

Township Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John O'Brien II and Kevin Mulcahy.

project safe childhood



## DETROIT CRACK DEALERS PLEAD

On April 1, 2008, Donnell McKenzie, 27, of Detroit pled guilty in federal court to felony drug charges

McKenzie was identified as a result of undercover purchases from ATF agents and Detroit Police Department officers.

This is McKenzie's third drug-related conviction. With

McKenzie's plea, all three defendants indicted by the government on August 2, 2007 in the case have been convicted. On March 4, 2008, Jamil Ingram, 29, pled guilty to conspiracy charges. Like McKenzie, Ingram is a career offender facing a 10-year mandatory minimum and an advisory guideline range of 22 to 27 years. On February 22,

2008, Khary Broyles, 28, pled guilty to drug conspiracy charges. Broyles faces a statutory minimum of five years imprisonment.

This case is the result of the unprecedented long-term law enforcement and community collaboration where ten federal, state, county and local law enforcement officials work in cooperation to reduce vio-

lent crimes By focusing on the "worst of the worst".





In response to the troubling trend of computer-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes The US Attorney's Office established a Child Protection Initiative to ensure that we are doing everything we can to protect and take care of our district's children.

Child pornography, human trafficking, interstate transportation of minors for the purpose of engaging in sex and other sorts of predatory activity upon children are targeted by this initiative. The office has successfully charged and convicted a disturbingly high

## Project Safe Childhood

— and increasing number of criminal defendants in the past year who have engaged in acts of criminality that endanger the safety and innocence of our community's most precious asset: our children.

This initiative also includes an Internet and Safety Awareness Program. The program provides several educational forums to communities within our districts. Our office hosted town hall meetings for parents, teachers, child protection workers, and community leaders on "Child Exploitation, Prevention and Enforcement."

These events included speakers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Criminal Division, Department of Justice.

Special thanks to Susan Plochinski, John O'Brien, and Matthew Roth for all of their coordination and facilitation efforts.

## Weed and Seed

In 1991, the U.S. Department of Justice established Operation Weed and Seed—a community-based multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and neighborhood restoration. Operation Weed and Seed is administered by the Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO), Office of Justice Programs.

The Weed and Seed strategy brings together Federal, State, and local crime fighting agencies,

social service providers, representatives of the public and private sectors, and neighborhood residents that share a goal of weeding out violent crime while seeding in social services and economic revitalization.

As of 2008, the Eastern District of Michigan is home to eight Weed and Seed sites. There are an additional four sites that are attempting to gain funding and Official Recognition as Weed and Seed sites this year.

Our office acts as the main contact for CCDO to provide support and guidance to present and developing sites.



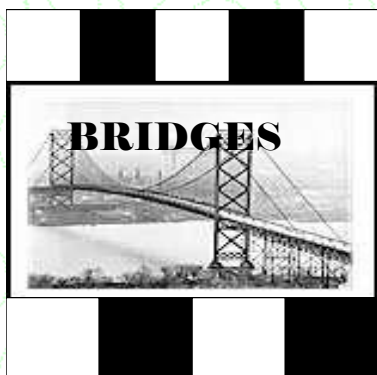
## BRIDGES

Our office is an active participant in BRIDGES, (Building Respect in Diverse Groups to Enhance Sensitivity), a successful partnership between federal law enforcement agencies and leaders in the Arab American and Middle Eastern communities in the Metro-Detroit region. BRIDGES meets on a regular basis to provide a forum to address issues of mutual concern and to foster better understanding. Topics

such as border crossings, no-fly lists, cultural sensitivity, hate crimes, law enforcement policies and procedures, immigration, and civil rights laws are discussed.

The meetings are co-chaired by Imad Hamad, Regional Director of the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee and Dan Sutherland, Officer of the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

The Detroit area is the gold standard for law enforcement partnerships with the Arab, Muslim, and Sikh Communities. The success of BRIDGES has inspired other districts to form their own BRIDGES chapters.



## OPERATION TIDE (TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE DRIVEN ENFORCEMENT)



In April, 2002, the US Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, and the Detroit Police Department implemented the gun case referral component of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN).

In 2006, a wide range of law enforcement agencies came together to establish the PSN - TIDE Task Force. This unprecedented collaboration included the U.S. Attorney's Office, ATF, FBI, DEA, USMS, Michigan State Police, Michigan Department of Corrections, Wayne County Sheriff's Department, Detroit Police Department, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and Detroit Northwest Weed and Seed.

TIDE is designed to use the expertise of each partner to better track and share intelligence on violent criminals and gang activity. The Detroit Police oversees the task force day to day operation. This includes debriefing every person arrested for crimes that have a firearm nexus in Northwest Detroit to gather intelligence on gangs and illegal guns. ATF traces all firearms and shell casings recovered by the TIDE task force and provides training on gun investigations. ATF also has assigned agents that work with Detroit Police and Michigan State Police on the investigative component of the task force. DEA and FBI supply intelligence data on drug and gang activity. Dedicated parole agents from the Michigan Department of Corrections ride with Detroit Police and Wayne County Sheriffs to conduct home-calls on parolees and probationers seven days a week in the nighttime and daytime hours. USMS and Wayne County Sheriffs conduct periodic fugitive sweeps in

Northwest Detroit. Prosecutor's from the U.S. Attorney's office and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office meet weekly with task force investigators to review all arrests to determine if individuals merit federal or state prosecution.

Since the rollout of TIDE in these areas of the city, non-fatal shootings have been reduced by 20% in comparison to the rest of Detroit. In addition, Homicides are down nearly 10%. Thus this reduction, although modest, represents a significant accomplishment of our Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. In addition, there have been 108 federal cases opened that include 168 defendants in 2007 alone. The average federal sentence for PSN cases in 2007 was 71 months.

Since the program began in 2006, the PSN TIDE program has received several noted awards: 2006 - Best Media Campaign, 2007 Overall Best Coordination, 2007 the LECS Outstanding Individual Contributions to a Violent Crime Task Force.

In 2007, EDM I received a million dollars to expand the program to the cities of Flint, Saginaw, and Jackson.





# 2008 Current Training/Conference Calendar

TRAINING	DATES	LOCATION
DEFY TRAINING	FEB 3-6	NASHVILLE, TN
PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD TRAINING	FEB 20	WYANDOTTE
STRATEGY CONFERENCE DEFY BREAKOUT LAB	MARCH 3-6	PORTLAND, OG
TRAIN THE TRAINER ANTI-TERRORISM TRNG	APRIL 2-4	EAST LANSING, MI (STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION)
FINANCIAL CRIMES TRAINING	APRIL 28	EAST LANSING, MI (STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION)
VIOLENT CRIME INVESTIGATOR TRNG	MAY 6-9	Ann Arbor, MI (STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION)
GANG TRAINING FOR INVESTIGATORS	MAY 13-16	Grand Rapids, MI (STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION)
CHARACTERISTIC OF THE ARMED GUNMAN	MAY 21	EAST LANSING, MI (STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION)
FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER	JUNE 4-7	DETROIT
PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD FOR LE AND VICTIM ASSIST. AGENCIES	JULY 24	MARQUETTE (STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION)
PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD FOR LE AND VICTIM ASSIST. AGENCIES	AUG 1	GAYLORD (STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION)
DRUG EDUCATION FOR YOUTH CAMP	AUGUST 11-16	CAMP COPNECONIC FLINT
PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD FOR LE AND VICTIM ASSIST AGENCIES	SEPT 8	EAST LANSING (STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION)
GREAT LAKES NATIVE AMERICAN CONFERENCE	SEPT. 15 -18	MANISTEE (NATIONAL/REGIONAL PARTICIPATION) VW/LEC
TRAIN THE TRAINIER SLATT TRAINING	SEPTEMBER 24-26	DETROIT (STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION)

Trainings are sponsored and/or co-sponsored by USAO

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***FAUSA TERRY BERG***

***DUSA BLONDELL MOREY***

***VWS SANDY PALAZOLO***

***PIO GINA BALAYA***

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